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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

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Analysis of Senate Bill 606 (As Passed Senate)

Topic: Occupational Code Licensing Renewal Requirements for Military Personnel
Sponsor: Senator Garcia
Co-Sponsors: Senators Pappageorge and Richardville
Committee: Senate Economic Development and Regulatory Reform
House Military and Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security

Date Introduced: June 26, 2007

Date Enrolled:

Date of Analysis: October 31, 2007

Position: The Department of Labor & Economic Growth supports the bill.

Problem/Background: Although military personnel on active duty in a combat zone have been temporarily exempted from requirements relating to renewal of Occupational Code licenses since 2004, many other individuals are mobilized for extended periods of time for duties that are not in the combat zone.

Description of Bill: The bill strikes language limiting the current temporary exemption in Section 411 of the Occupational Code to military personnel on active duty in a combat zone and replaces it with a temporary exemption for individuals mobilized for military duty.

Summary of Arguments

Pro: The current language is unfair. While troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan meet the current requirements for the temporary exemption, troops deployed at other locations in the Middle East, Europe, and Africa do not qualify even though they may be providing support to the war effort.

Nearly 1,600 Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are currently deployed throughout the World in locations such as Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bosnia, Kosovo, and the Arizona-New Mexico border areas. All of these men and women are serving their country and deserve to be eligible for this temporary exemption.

Military personnel mobilized and deployed for assignments such as border patrol or disaster relief have similar difficulties meeting occupational licensing or registration requirements as those deployed in a combat zone.

Con: None.

Fiscal/Economic Impact

(a) Department

Budgetary: By expanding the current temporary exemption the bill will impose a small undetermined amount of additional costs on the department.

Revenue: The bill will neither increase nor decrease revenues to the department.

Comments:

(b) State

Budgetary: The bill will have no effect on the state budget.

Revenue: The bill will have no effect on state revenues.

Comments:

(c) Local Government

Comments:

Other State Departments: The Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs may have an interest in this bill, because Michigan National Guard personnel have been mobilized for duty.

Any Other Pertinent Information:

Administrative Rules Impact: No new or revised administrative rules will be required.